Transfer of Tin Bigha to Bangladesh

4631. SHRI VISHNU KANT SHASTRI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that as per assurances given by the Union Government and the West Bengal State Government the exchange of enclaves between India and Bangladesh was to be taken up within thirty days of transfer of Tin Bigha Corridor to Bangladesh in June 1992 ;

(b) whether the exchange of enclaves between Indian and Bangladesh has taken place after the transfer of Tin Bigha Corridor to Bangladesh;

(c) if so, the details in this regard and if not, the reasons therefor and the reaction of Bangladesh Government in this regard; and

(d) what is the annual expenditure to guard the Tin Bigha Corridor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA) (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) So far as the details of part (b), i.e. the exchange of enclaves are concerned, the question does not arise.

As the issue of the exchange of enclaves is linked with the complete demarcation of the Indo-Bangladesh land boundary, it continues to be the subject of discussions between the two Governments.

(d) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Proposals to Pakistan for Resolving Disputes

4632. SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether govenrent have sent any proposals recently to Pakistan for the solution of the disputes between the two countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether Government have received any comments/reaction from Pakistan on the said proposals; and

(c) if so, the details thereof stating the steps contemplated by Government in case Pakistan keeps negative view with India's proposals ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA) : (a) On 21 March, 1994 Government reiterated to the Govenrment of Pakistan its readiness to resolve all outstanding issues pertaining to its bilateral relations with Pakistan peacefully and through bilateral negotiations as envisaged under the Simla Agreement. Government conveyed that the six Indian proposals transmitted to Pakistan on January 24, 1994 can form the basis of a comprehensive and meaningful dialogue. Government proposed that, accordingly, the Eighth Round of Foreign Secretary-level talks may be scheduled either in New Delhi or in Islamabad.

(b) and (c) Pakistan has yet to convey its response to our proposal. Government have and would continue to urge Pakistan to abandon its negative approach and join in sincere endeavours to address all outstanding issues through a comprehensive and meaningful bilateral dialogue, within the framework of the Simla Agreement, in the interest of good-neighbourly relations.

Replacement of Old Passports

4633. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Passport Offices in the country have recently introduced tamper proof passports which are difficult to forge;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether all the passport offices in the country are issuing such possports;

(d) what steps Government have taken to issue tamper proof passports in lieu of old passports ; and

(e) whether any deadline has been fixed to get old passports replaced with new passports; if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS